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ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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RallyRACC Catalunya: Jan Kopecký and Kalle Rovanperä crown season for ŠKODA by securing the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title*

- › With one more round to go in the FIA World Rally Championship 2019, ŠKODA is uncatchable in the race for the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title*
- › In Spain, Jan Kopecký/Jan Hloušek (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) took second category place ahead of newly crowned WRC 2 Pro drivers' champions* Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "Winning all titles of the WRC 2 Pro category is the well-deserved reward for the whole team!"
- › While the WRC 2 class for private teams is still undecided, only a ŠKODA crew can win the title at the season's final in Australia

Salou, 27 October 2019 – Mission accomplished: At RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España (24/10–27/10/2019), Jan Kopecký/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) and their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo teammates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) finished second and third respectively in WRC 2 Pro. With these results they prematurely secured the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019 for ŠKODA already ahead of the season's final. In three weeks in Australia only the title race of the WRC 2 category for private teams will be decided, in this case between ŠKODA drivers Pierre-Louis Loubet (FRA) and Benito Guerra (MEX).

A long season has come to a successful end for ŠKODA Motorsport. After Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen three weeks ago at Rally Wales GB prematurely won the WRC 2 Pro drivers' titles, ŠKODA Motorsport rounded up the season by also winning the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019*. At RACC Rally Catalunya-Rally de España a second place in the category for Jan Kopecký/Jan Hloušek plus third for teammates Rovanperä/Halttunen was enough to seal the title for ŠKODA.

Going into Saturday, Kalle Rovanperä was second in WRC 2 Pro. With fast stage times he managed to close the gap to the WRC 2 Pro category leader, Citroën's Mads Østberg, from more than 30 to 9.8 seconds. But on the day's very last stage in the streets of Salou, Rovanperä hit a barrier, breaking the left rear suspension of his car. Thus, the Finnish crew dropped to third at the end of the Saturday leg, while teammate Jan Kopecký moved up to second position of the WRC 2 Pro category. On Sunday, with four more stages adding up to 74.14 kilometres of racing against the clock, both teams strictly followed the team-order, took no unnecessary risks and after a faultless drive reached the finish in Salou, making ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek a happy man.

"Finally, I can say: mission accomplished. We achieved every target we set ourselves for 2019. We successfully brought the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo to the market, Kalle and Jonne took the drivers titles* and on top of that secured together with both Jans the necessary points to win the manufacturers' championship*," ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek emphasizes and adds: "This success only was possible due to the strong commitment and support from our board of management, our engineers, mechanics and all the ŠKODA employees, who supported us, making motorsport a successful part of the ŠKODA DNA. I am on top of that delighted to see how



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successful our customers are. At the final WRC round in Australia, only a ŠKODA crew can win the WRC 2 championship for private teams. Our customers around the world are rallying successfully with the 311 cars we sold. We have a big responsibility towards our customers and will now fully concentrate on preparing next season properly.”

Inside the WRC 2 category for private teams, championship leaders Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais (FRA/FRA) had a heart-breaking moment during the final day of the Spanish WRC round. Having led the category after the first day of the rally, they put their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo into a ditch on the second of the Sunday stages, lost valuable time and dropped to fifth category position. Now the season’s final in Australia will bring the decision between them and the Mexican ŠKODA crew Benito Guerra/Daniel Cué, who had to retire in Spain.

**subject to the publication of the official results by the FIA*

Result RallyRACC Catalunya (WRC 2 Pro/WRC 2)

1. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 R5, 3:16:04.2 h*
2. Camilli/Veillas (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 R5, +22.6 sec.
3. Kopecký/Hloušek (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +54.7 sec.*
4. Rovannerä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:29.1 min.*
5. Lindholm/Korhonen (FIN/FIN), VW Polo GTI R5, +2:03.1 min.
6. Kajetanovicz/Szcepaniak (POL/POL), VW Polo GTI R5, +2:19.1 min.

**Factory nominated crews eligible to score points in the WRC 2 Pro category*

Championship Standings WRC 2 Pro/Drivers (after 13 of 14 rounds)

1. Kalle Rovannerä (FIN), ŠKODA, 176 points
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën, 145 points
3. Gus Greensmith (GBR), Ford, 137 points
4. Jan Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 115 points

Championship Standings WRC 2 Pro/Manufacturers (after 13 of 14 rounds)

1. ŠKODA, 333 points
2. Ford, 259 points
3. Citroën, 145 points

Number of the day: 3

ŠKODA won all three titles of the WRC 2 Pro category of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019. Factory crew Kalle Rovannerä and Jonne Halttunen became drivers’ and co-driver’ champions respectively, while ŠKODA took the manufacturers crown.*

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The calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 Pro)

Event	Date
Monte-Carlo	24/01–27/01/2019
Sweden	14/02–17/02/2019
Mexico	07/03–10/03/2019
France	28/03–31/03/2019
Argentina	25/04–28/04/2019
Chile	09/05–12/05/2019
Portugal	30/05–02/06/2019
Italy	13/06–16/06/2019
Finland	01/08–04/08/2019
Germany	22/08–25/08/2019
Turkey	12/09–15/09/2019
Great Britain	03/10–06/10/2019
Spain	24/10–27/10/2019
Australia	14/11–17/11/2019

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ŠKODA at RallyRACC Catalunya 2019

At the Spanish WRC round, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) took second place of the WRC 2 Pro category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at RallyRACC Catalunya 2019

ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) finished third in the WRC 2 Pro category of the 2019 championship's penultimate round in Spain

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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ŠKODA at RallyRACC Catalunya 2019

ŠKODA Motorsport celebrates the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019 on the podium in Salou

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions and managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time. 2017 WRC 2 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Haltunen (FIN/FIN) completed a pure ŠKODA podium in the final standings of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category. For the fourth time in a row ŠKODA Motorsport won the WRC 2 Championship for Teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The private ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan won the 2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) took the title win in the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC). After winning the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) in 2013, 2016 and 2017, ŠKODA crew Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG) again were successful. On top of that, ŠKODA crews won 17 national championships.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world.

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 39,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.